THE STATE OF THE Publick RECORDS OF THIS KINGDOM;

Exhibiting a particular Account of the Subject Matter contain'd in thoſe RECORDS;

Of the Condition in which they are preſerved;

AND

Of the ſeveral Offices where Recourſe may be had to them, *viz.*

The Tower of *London*.
The Rolls Chapel.
The Pipe Office.
The King's Remembrancer's Office.
The Treaſurer's Remembrancer's Office.
The Augmentation Office, *&c.*

Publiſhed by Order of the Houſe of LORDS.

LONDON: Printed for R. GOSLING, at the *Middle-Temple Gate* in *Fleet-ſtreet*, 1723.

MLSH

BL

Die Jovis 16 *Aprilis*, 1719.

THE *Earl of* Clarendon *Reported from the Lords Committees, who by Order of this Houſe, of the Ninth of* December *laſt, were directed to View the Records of the Court of Chancery in the* Tower, *and thoſe fit to be carried thither; and to Conſider what Place there is proper to receive them; and likewiſe*

wiſe to View all ſuch other Publick Records as they ſhall think fit, and in what Manner and Place the ſame are now kept, as follows.

THAT their Lordſhips did, in the firſt place, Send for and Examine the Two Senior Six Clerks of the Court of Chancery; who acquainted their Lordſhips, That there were a vaſt Quantity of Bills, Anſwers, Depoſitions of Witneſſes, and other Pleadings, from the Reign of King *Charles* the Firſt, which about Six Years ſince, were bundled up and put into a proper Condition

Condition to be Tranſmitted to the *Tower*; but upon Enquiry there, it was ſaid, That there was no Reception for them in the Record Room: However Sir *Chriſtopher Wren* having, by the Direction of the then Lord Chancellor, view'd ſeveral Places in the *Tower*, and found a handſom Room there, as he thought proper to be fitted up for receiving and keeping the ſaid Records, Application had been made to the Treaſury concerning this Matter; between whom, and the Officers of Ordnance, who Claim'd that Room, there has been a Diſpute, which is not yet determin'd. The ſaid Six Clerks further inform'd the Com-

mittee, That the laſt Tranſmittance of the Chancery Records to the *Tower* was in the Year 1674, and that an Order was made the 6th of *Auguſt*, 1712. by the then Maſter of the Rolls, for the like Tranſmittance of ſuch Records from the Beginning of King *Charles* the Second to the Beginning of the late King *James*, a Copy whereof they deliver'd to the Committee; and being enquir'd of, in what Manner thoſe Records now lie at the Six Clerks Office, and whether Recourſe could be had to them, they Anſwer'd, That the ſaid Records were in Safety, and had not yet receiv'd any Damage; but that it was very difficult

difficult to find any thing in them as they at preſent lie.

The Committee likewiſe Examin'd Mr. *Saunderſon*, Deputy Uſher of the Rolls, touching certain Records and Papers, which their Lordſhips had been inform'd appear'd to View upon pulling down the Old Houſe of the Maſter of the Rolls; who acquainted the Committee, That there were a vaſt Quantity of Papers which lay in a confus'd manner, and conſiſted of Bills, Anſwers, and Proceedings in *Chancery*, from the Time of Queen *Elizabeth* downwards; alſo Depoſitions, Dockets, and Writs, but no Decrees; and that thoſe Papers were of like Nature

with thoſe in the Six Clerks Office; but they being very numerous, wou'd take up a great deal of Time to put them up fit to be Tranſmitted to the *Tower*: Whereupon their Lordſhips are of Opinion, Directions ſhou'd be given for putting up the ſaid Papers to be ſo Tranſmitted, as likewiſe any old Bills and Anſwers, or other Proceedings, which may be found not already bundled up in the Six Clerks Office.

The Committee after this repair'd to the *Tower* of *London* themſelves; and being there attended by Mr. *Topham* and Mr. *Holmes*, their Lordſhips firſt View'd the Office of Records, and found the looſe

looſe Papers and Parchments, which heretofore lay in great Confuſion within the Chapel of the *White Tower*, were moſt of them ſorted and put into Order of Time in an excellent Manner, in purſuance of ſeveral Reports from former Committees of this Houſe for Records, and Applications thereupon to the Crown; but Complaint being ſtill made of the want of Room for receiving and diſtinctly diſpoſing the Publick Papers and Records remaining to be put in Order, The Committee were of Opinion, that a large Room on the Eaſt-ſide of the *White Tower*, adjoyning to *Cæſar*'s Chapel, being Sixty Four Foot long, and Thirty

One Foot wide, ſhou'd be allotted for that Uſe and Purpoſe, as well as for the Reception of the Records to be Tranſmitted from the Court of Chancery: And their Lordſhips thereupon directed a Plan to be made of the ſaid Room, and an Eſtimate of the Charge of fitting up the ſame; which having been made accordingly, the ſaid Eſtimate amounts to about 330 *l.*

The Committee on this Occaſion crave Leave further to Obſerve to Your Lordſhips, That it appearing to them, that the Floor of *Cæſar*'s Chapel being much broken and ſubjected to the raiſing of Duſt, to the Damage of the Records,

are

are of Opinion, that the ſame ought to be Boarded in the plaineſt and ſtrongeſt Manner.

The Committee having received Information, That a great Quantity of Records and Papers of the late Court of Wards, which ſome Years ſince were brought from a Houſe belonging to the King's Fiſhmonger in *Fiſh-Yard*, over the Princes Chamber, and lately remov'd from thence over the Black Rods Room, are Lodg'd there, with divers Ancient Records of the Court of Requeſts, where they now lie in great Diſorder; their Lordſhips took a View of the ſame, and directed Mr. *Anſtis*, Garter King of Arms, to Inſpect the

the ſaid Records in order to the Placing them in a proper Method: Who having accordingly made ſuch Inſpection, deliver'd a Memorial concerning them to the Effect following, *viz.*

That if it was their Lordſhips Pleaſure to have thoſe Records or Papers digeſted into Order, and to Annex the Keeping of them to the Office of Garter King of Arms, he was willing to Undertake the Care thereof; theſe Inſtruments taken upon Oath being the moſt certain Proofs of the Deſcents of the Nobility and Gentry, *&c.*

In which Caſe he humbly Propos'd, That each Inſtrument ſhou'd be Reduc'd according

cording to Order of Time, with regard to the Subject Matter of it, and the Contents put into Calendars with Three Indexes; One of the Sirnames, the other of Lands, and the Third of Matters, all Alphabetically diſpoſed under the particular Counties; and that the looſe Papers, whereof there where an Immenſe Quantity, might be Bound into Volumes (if they appear'd to be of Value) for preſerving and keeping them conſtantly in the ſame Method.

That the Expence of New Binding ſuch Books as want it, and of the Paper for making Indexes, &c. ſhou'd be, from time to time, repaid, with

with other Incident Charges, upon laying particular Accounts thereof before the Lords of the Treaſury for the time being.

Theſe Inſtruments conſiſting of Duplicates of Inquiſitions *poſt Mortem*, and Proceedings of courſe in the Court of Wards, ſuch as Liveries, Ouſter le mains, Primier Seiſins, Proofs of Age, Tenures of Lands, and Services thereof, together with Proceedings in Caſes of Controverſies, and a great Quantity of old Deeds, wou'd require much Time and Pains to be put into Method; ſo that if their Lordſhips thought reaſonable, that Three Clerks ſhould be allow'd (who have been Converſant in Matters

Matters of Record) to be employ'd, with ſuch Salaries as ſhou'd be judg'd proper, thoſe Perſons might be Sworn before One of the Barons of the Exchequer (the ſaid Papers relating formerly to the Revenue) not to Embezil or Alter any of them, or any other Papers under their Charge: And if he was permitted the Liberty of Nominating them, he wou'd be Anſwerable for their Abilities, Integrity, and Progreſs in that Affair ; as alſo that the Catalogues ſhou'd be Tranſmitted to the Clerk of the Parliaments, Subſcrib'd by him the ſaid Garter, as a Charge upon himſelf, to be afterwards Sign'd in like manner by the

Suc-

Succeſſive Garters Kings of Arms; and the ſame, if thought neceſſary, might be Printed for that Purpoſe, as well as for the Publick Service.

The Books, Parchments, and Papers, belonging to the Court of Requeſts, ſhou'd be placed according to the Catalogue of them formerly Printed by Sir *Julius Cæſar*; and when the Contents of them are better known, a farther Account ſhou'd be laid before their Lordſhips.

And ſubmitted it to their Lordſhips, whether it were not neceſſary to have His Majeſties Warrant for theſe Purpoſes, if their Lordſhips Approv'd thereof.

The

The Committee having been likewiſe inform'd by the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*, That ſeveral Bags of Records hung up by the Pell-Office in the Exchequer, ſome of which were thought very Valuable, and no way belonging to that Office; their Lordſhips ſent for and Examin'd Mr. *Sadler*, Deputy Clerk of the Pells in relation thereunto; who acquainted the Committee, That he believ'd they were brought thither at the Time of the Fire which happen'd at *White-Hall* in the Reign of King *James* the Firſt, and had been told ſome of them were very Valuable, but not at all as he apprehended belonging to the Revenue: Whereupon immediate Order

was given for bringing the ſaid Bags to the Committee; and the ſame being brought accordingly, there were found to be Twenty one Bags full of Records; which being by Direction of their Lordſhips Seal'd up and Mark'd, the ſame at preſent remain in the Cuſtody of Mr. *Jncledon*, Your Lordſhips Houſe-keeper.

And on Conſideration of the ſaid Memorial laid before the Committee by the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*, and of the Nature of the ſaid Records, Papers, or Writings, contain'd in the ſaid Twenty one Bags; their Lordſhips are of Opinion, That it will be for the Service of the Publick to have the ſeveral Records, Papers, or Writings, men-

mention'd in the ſaid Memorial, and contain'd in the ſaid Twenty one Bags, digeſted into Order, and for that pupoſe that they may be placed under the Care of the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*, whom We Conceive to be a very proper Perſon to Methodize the ſame; and that he may be Ordered to make ſuch Calendars and Indexes thereof, as are mentioned by him in his ſaid Memorial; and that ſuch of the looſe Papers as ſhall appear to him to be of Value, may be Bound up for the better preſerving and rendring them more Uſeful; and that Catalogues of ſuch Records and Papers aforeſaid, as ſoon as the ſame can be perfected, may be Tranſ-

mitted by the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis* to the Clerk of the Parliaments.

And for as much as We Conceive the Work aforeſaid will neceſſarily require the Aſſiſtance of Three Clerks to perfect the ſame, in any reaſonable Time, according to the Propoſal of the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*, it ſeems reaſonable to us, that he may have ſuch Aſſiſtance of Clerks, and that ſuch Recompence may be made the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*, and his Clerks, as ſhall be thought proper.

And in regard ſome large and convenient Place is neceſſary for the keeping and preſerving the ſeveral Records or Papers mentioned in the ſaid Mr. *Anſtis*'s Memorial,

and contain'd in the ſaid Twenty one Bags, their Lordſhips have been at the Cathedral Church of St. *Paul*, to ſee if there was any Place which might be thought proper for Repoſiting and Preſerving the ſaid Records or Papers; and having Survey'd ſeveral Upper-Rooms and Apartments, conceive, That an Upper-Room on the South-ſide of the ſaid Cathedral, over the Iſle on the Left Hand of the South-Door, which is near the *Herald's Office*, is a very convenient Place for that Purpoſe; and their Lordſhips having had an Opportunity to Diſcourſe with the Dean and ſome of the Chapter of the ſaid Cathedral

Church, have good reaſon to believe, there will be no Difficulty in obtaining the Conſent of that Body. And the Committee having, in purſuance of a Requeſt made by their Lordſhips, received a Plan or Scheme of fitting up the ſaid Room for that Uſe, with an Eſtimate of the Charge thereof, the ſame amounts to Seven hundred and eight Pounds.

The Committee underſtanding, That divers Records, in the Cuſtody, and under the Care of the Deputy Chamberlains of the Exchequer, were in great Diſorder, if not in a Dangerous Condition, their Lordſhips ſent for and examin'd the

ſaid

ſaid Deputy Chamberlains; who acknowledg'd there were a great many Records in their Cuſtody, which were in a confus'd Condition, and liable to Ruin for want of an Allowance for Hands to put them in Order; and being ask'd, if they could give a particular Account of the Nature of them, they deliver'd to the Committee an Account accordingly, as drawn up ſome Years ago by Mr. *Lowe* and Mr. *Le Neve*, late Deputy Chamberlains, which is as follows.

An Account of the ſeveral Records in the Court of the Receipt of the Exchequer, in the Cuſtody of the Lord Treaſurer, or the Right Honourable the Lords Commiſſioners of the Treaſury for the Time being, the Chamberlains of the Exchequer, and their Deputies.

IRST, Foreign Records, as Leagues or Treaties betwixt the reſpective Kings of this Realm, and the Foreign Kings,

Kings, Princes, Dukes, Earls, and Common-wealths of *Europe*, Scil. The *Empire*, *France*, *Spain*, *Scotland*, *Denmark*, *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Caſtile*, *Portugal*, *Aragon*, *Burgundy*, *Genoa*, &c. from before the Time of King *Edward* I. (together with many Bulls of ſundry Popes) to the Time of King *James* I. incluſive (but not ſince) with many Letters and Cyphers of Ambaſſadors in their Negotiations in *Henry* the Eighth's Time, *&c.*

Secondly, Domeſtick Records, wherein are Comprized ſuch as concern, firſt Matters of Eſtate and the Crown only, as ſeveral Rolls, Deeds, Papers,

Papers, and Books, relating to the Diſſolutions of the Abbies, Suppreſſion of the Pope's Supremacy, and Acknowledging King *Henry* the Eighth, the Marriages and Divorce of that King, ſeveral Original Parliament Rolls of the Time of King *Edward* the Firſt, the Wills of the Kings, *Henry* the Seventh and Eighth, with an Exemplification of the laſt ſundry Broad-Seals and Privy-Seals Cancelled for Loans of Money, ſeveral Books cover'd with Blue Velvet, and Emboſſed with Silver, touching the Foundation of *Henry* the Seventh's Chapel, and Agreements between that King and the Abbot of *Weminſter*,

ſter, for Maſſes, *&c.* to be ſaid in that Chapel for his Soul; A Box ſealed with the Seals of the Right Honourable *Charles Mountague*, Eſq; Chancellor of the Exchequer, late Lord *Halifax*, and *John Smith*, Eſq; Privy-Councellors, wherein are certain old Aſſays of Gold and Silver, ſmall Wedges of Silver, old ſmall Weights, old Rolls of the Trial of the Pix, Warrants and Accounts thereof, which were in a Bag of Cordovar quite rotten, and by Order of the Council they were put into this Box and ſealed up likewiſe; the Aſſays of Gold of ſeveral Kings Reigns, *&c.* with many others of the like Nature,

Scil.

Scil. the Exemplification of Sir *Thomas Greſham*'s Will, Kt. *&c.*

Thirdly, The Records of the King's Court from *Richard* the Firſt's Time to King *John* and King *Henry* the Third, part of his Reign incluſive, before the Diviſion thereof into the Courts of King's Bench and Common-Pleas; the Rolls of the Records call'd the King's Bench, of the Times of King *H.* 3. *R.* 2. *H.* 4. *H.* 5. incluſive, Entitled *Placita coram Domino Rege*; the Rolls of the Court of Common-Pleas of the Reigns of the Kings *H.* 3. *E.* 1 *E.* 2. *E.* 3. *R.* 2. *H.* 4. *H.* 5. *H.* 6. *E.* 4. and *H.* 7. incluſive,

incluſive, but none ſince, by reaſon of the Neglect of the reſpective Officers of thoſe Courts to Tranſmit them to the King's Treaſury; theſe being called *Placita de Banco Temporibus*, &c.

Fourthly, The ſeveral Fines of Lands Levied in all the Counties of *England*, from the Reign of King *R.* 1. to the Year, 1660. incluſive, tranſmitted from the *Cuſtos Brevium* Office.

Fifthly, The Rolls of Aſſizes and Pleas of the Crown afore the Juſtices Itinerant, in almoſt all the Counties of *England*, call'd *Placita Juratorʼ & Aſſiſarʼ coram Juſticiarʼ Itinerantibus in diverſis Comitatibus Angliæ, & Placita Coronæ*, in the

Reigns of the Kings *H.* 3. *E.* 1. *E.* 2. *E.* 3. and other Reigns, the *Placita Aulæ* of ſeveral Kings Reigns, *Scil.* *E.* 1. *E.* 2. & *E.* 3. *Rotulus Mareſcalciæ Tempore E.* 1. the Pleadings of the *Quo Warranto*'s, of the Times of King *E.* 1. *E.* 2. *E.* 3. in moſt Counties of *England*, together with thoſe of the Iſlands of *Jerſey* and *Guernſey*, moſt of which are Bound up with the Aſſize-Rolls of thoſe Reigns.

Sixthly, Old Evidences and Deeds, many Accounts of Auditors, Receivers, *&c.* and Surveys, and Court-Rolls of divers Honours, Manors, Lands, and Tenements, in *England* and *Wales*, which came to the Poſſeſſion of ſeveral Kings of *Eng-*

England, the Princes of *Wales*, and Dukes of *Cornwall*, by Purchaſe, Exchange, Forfeiture, or Eſcheat, from the Reign of King *E.* 1. to the time of King *H.* 8. Incluſive, with Surveys of Deeds, Court-Rolls, *&c.* of the leſſer Monaſteries in ſeveral parts of *England*, and their Surrenders, which were granted to Cardinal *Woolſey* in the ſaid Reign; together with all the Deeds, Books, Papers, and Letters Patents, which were Seized into the King's Hands on his being Guilty of the *Præmunire*; together with the Old Deeds of ſome few Abbies and Priories, Surrendred into King *Henry* the Eighth's Hands before the Acts of Parliament for

for Diſſolution of Abbies, &c. all which were formerly Tranſmitted into the King's Treaſury, into the Cuſtody of the Lord Treaſurer and Chamberlains of the Exchequer, by their Deputies, immediately after their being Purchaſed, Surrendred, Forfeited, &c. Sundry Accounts of the Staple of *Calais*, of the *French* Territories, of the Butlerage of *England*, Buildings at *Windſor*, of the Hanaper, Wardrobe, Jewels, &c.

The Record call'd *Doomſday Book*, in Two Volumes, One in Quarto, containing the Counties of *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, and *Eſſex*; the other in a large Folio, containing the other part of *England*, except

Durham, *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, *Weſtmorland*, and Part of *Lancaſter*, with a Third Book in Folio, containing an Abſtract of thoſe Two Books, very Ancient; Several Bags of Perambulations and Inquiſitions of Aſſarts, Vert, and Veniſon, Rolls of the Juſtices in *Eyre*, of ſeveral Foreſts, in the Times of King *E.* 1. *E.* 2. and *E.* 3. a Book of Perambulation of the Foreſts *North Trent*, in the Time of King *H.* 8. the Juſtice Seats of *Waltham*, and the New Foreſts, before *Aubrey* Earl of *Oxon*, in the Time of King *Charles* 2. many Counter-pells of ſeveral Reigns, from the Times of King *Edward* 1. to King *Philip* and

Queen *Mary*, and Queen *Elizabeth*; ſeveral Books in Vellum, one call'd the Black Book, *de Neceſſariis Scaccarii Obſervantiis*, writ by *Gervaſius Tilburienſis*, in the Time of King *Henry* 2. in which are the Oaths and Admittances of the Officers of the Lower Exchequer, *&c.* Two others concerning the Dutchey of *Cornwall*, others of Inrolments of Popes Bulls, of Deeds of Lands; ſome Statutes as thoſe of *Winton*, and *Glouceſter*; of ſome Leagues with Princes, and with the *Welſh*; of Deliverances of Records and Jewels, *&c.* of Calendars or Catalogues of Leagues betwixt Prince and Prince, *&c.* from *Edward* the Third's Time to

King *Henry* the Eighth's Time; Two Books, One of the Old Statutes, of the Order of the Garter, another of the Order of St. *Michael*, ſent to King *Henry* the Sixth, by the *French* King *Francis* the Firſt, and ſome few other things relating to thoſe Two Orders.

Three Patent Rolls, One of *Edward* the Second's Time, from the Firſt to the Fourteenth Year of His Reign; One of King *John*, from the Firſt Year of his Reign to the Ninth; Another of King *Henry* the Sixth's Time; One Pipe-Roll of the Third Year of King *John*, *Termino Paſchæ*; many Inquiſitions in a Bag called *Rayman* in divers Shires, touching Liberties withholden from the

King in *Edward* the Firſt's time, and of Tenures in another Bag, with many of the like ſort put into Bags in their proper Shires; the Seal of the Court of the Receipt of the Exchequer, wherewith are Sealed Indentures for Standard Weights and Meaſures, when deliver'd; ſeveral Indentures of the Receipt and Delivery of Records, Jewels, Weights, and Meaſures, &c. between the Judges and others, of the one Part, and the Officers of the Talley-Court, *Scil.* the Chamberlains Deputies of the other; many Indentures concerning the *Mint*, between the reſpective Kings of this Realm and the Maſters and Workers of the *Mint*, about the Advancing or

Abating of Coins, together with ſeveral Old Rolls about the ſame; and Eſtabliſhments of the *Mint*, with ſeveral old Stamps of Coins, *Scil.* the *Roſe Noble*, and *Spur Royal*, *&c.* The Standards of Weights, *Averdupois* and *Troy*, with thoſe of Meaſures; ſundry Books, and Rolls of Muſters of Men at Arms, Hobilers, Butmen, *&c.* in divers Shires, made in the Time of King *Henry* the Eighth; Vaſt Quantities of Common Writs, from King *Edward* the Firſt or Second's Time, to the Year 1660. ſent at ſeveral times from the *Cuſtos Brevium* Office; which are moſt of them put under the Cheſts in One of the Treaſuries, as being of no Value; the Indenture

ture of Annexation of Jewels to the Crown under the Great Seal and Sign Manual of King *James* the Firſt, with Two Schedules annext, and a Paper-Book containing the Remain of all ſuch Jewels, &c. remaining in the *Tower* of *London*, Signed by the ſaid King. *Item*, The Bills, Anſwers, Depoſitions, and Commiſſions, relating to the late Diſſolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber* and of Survey, till the Diſſolutions thereof. *Item*, The Writs of Entry, *in le Poſt*, & *Seiſin*, on Common Recoveries, the Writs of Covenant, Concords of Fines, the *Poſtea*'s, *Venire*'s, and *Jurata*'s, in Common Actions, to the Year 1660. from *Henry* the Eighth's

Time. *Item*, A great Parcel of Fragments of Records of divers Natures, lately brought to the Treaſury, of which the Contents are not known.

In the Chapter-Houſe belonging to *Weſtminſter Abbey* in the Cloiſter, there are contained vaſt Quantities of Common Writs of many Reigns, Confuſedly heaped together; a like Quantity of the Bills, Anſwers, Replications, &c. of the Diſſolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber*, which was formerly kept by the Uſher of the Exchequer, and on the making of the Annuity Offices in the late Reign, were Order'd to be put into this Treaſury, but have not been Digeſted ſince: *Memorand'* None of the De-

crees

erees of the ſaid Court are to be found; the laſt Notice of them (that cou'd be got) was that they were in a Houſe in St. *Bartholomew's Cloſe, London*; Rolls of Aſſizes in divers Counties, of many Reigns, ſeveral whereof have been formerly Abbreviated by our Predeceſſors in Books, ſome of which Books ſtill remain in the Office, but more have been loſt; with many Books of Abbreviations of many other Records, and diſperſed into private Hands; (One Sold to the Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Clarendon*) others ſaid to be in the Hands of the late Maſter of the Rolls: In the Treaſury or Repoſitory, by the Side of the

the Talley-Court in the Exchequer, lie the Books of *Doomſday*, the *Black Book*, the Book of *Memorandums* and Entry of Leagues, Treaties, Deliverances of Records, Jewels, &c. of Abbreviations of Records, the Aſſize Rolls, thoſe of the Pleas of the Crown, the *Quo Warranto* Rolls, Fines levied of Lands, Accounts, Surveys, Court-Rolls, Old Deeds, and Evidences of Lands.

In the Treaſury ſituate over the Gate-way going out of the *New Palace Yard* into St. *Margaret's Lane*, are Records of divers Natures; Firſt, Several Cart Loads of Common Writs; Secondly, *Poſtea*'s, Con-

Concords, *Jurata*'s, *Venire*'s, &c. Thirdly, The Fines of Lands in the ſeveral Counties of *England*, from King *Henry* the Eighth's Time to King *James* the Firſt inclusive; Fourthly, The Bills and Anſwers of the Court of Survey in the Time of King *Henry* the Eighth; the Papers, Deeds, and Evidences, relating to the Diſſolution of the Monaſteries, and to Cardinal *Woolſey*; Accounts of *Calais*, of the Butlerage, Accounts of many Mens Lands, Old Deeds, Indentures, and many other Things of divers Natures; the Writs of Entry *in le Poſt*, and Writs of Seiſin or Common Recoveries, during the Reign of King

Henry

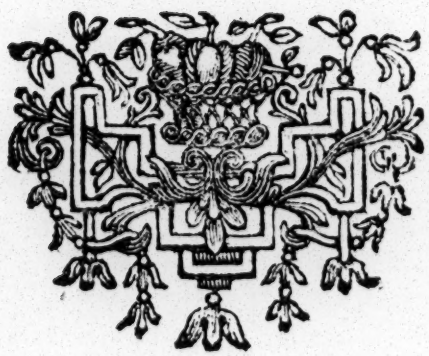
Henry the Eighth, *Edward* the Sixth, King *Philip* and Queen *Mary*, Queen *Elizabeth*, King *James* the Firſt. Laſtly, A Preſs of Letters and Cyphers of Ambaſſadors, in the Time of King *Henry* 8. *&c.*

This Treaſury wanting Reparation and Fitting up, the Care thereof is humbly Submitted to Your Lordſhips; beſides one of the Tenants adjoyning hath broke a Door into the Leads, over the ſaid Treaſury; and part of the Building underneath, and on one ſide, is lately encroached upon, and annoy'd by keeping of an Ale-houſe, and Building of Leads even with the Windows.

THE Committee having been Inform'd, That Mr. *Madox* was a proper Perſon to give an Account in relation to the Subject of their Lordſhips Enquiry, they ſent for and Examin'd him as to his Knowledge of any Records in Diſorder, or liable to receive Damage, and likewiſe as to the Condition of the Records in the Exchequer in general: And having heard the Account he gave, their Lordſhips thought proper to give Direction, That Mr. *Neale* Deputy in the Pipe-Office, Mr. *Harding* Deputy in the Office of the King's Remembrancer, Mr. *Plaxton* Deputy in

in the Office of the Treaſurer's Remembrancer, and Mr. *Jett*, one of the Auditors of the Revenue, ſhou'd Inſpect the Records, in their reſpective Offices, and give an Account in Writing of the Nature of the ſaid Records, in what State they were in, and whether any thing, and what was neceſſary to be done to put the ſame into a more proper Condition; and Directed the ſaid Mr. *Madox* to aſſiſt in ſuch Inſpection, and Preparing ſuch Accounts; and likewiſe gave Direction to the Deputy Chamberlains, for them to prepare the like Account in relation to the Chapter-Houſe at *Weſtminſter*; and alſo Order'd, That Mr. *Topham*, Keeper of the

the Records in the *Tower*, ſhou'd lay before the Committee an Account of the Nature of the Records there; And Reports or Accounts having been accordingly, by Mr. *Madox* and the ſaid Officers, ſeverally laid before their Lordſhips, the ſame are as follows.



To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inſpecting of Records,

The Humble Report of Thomas Madox.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

IN Obedience to your Lordſhips Commands ſignified to me in your moſt Honourable Committee, the Seventh Day of *Feb.* Inſtant, I have perſonally

View'd the ſeveral Treaſuries of Records belonging to the Upper Exchequer at *Weſtminſter*, to wit, the ſeveral Offices of the Pipe, the King's Remembrancer, the Treaſurer's Remembrancer, and the Augmentations, being Accompanied in the ſaid View by the ſeveral Deputies of the reſpective Offices; and do moſt humbly Certifie, as followeth.

The Pipe-Office.

IN the Treaſury of this Office are kept the great Rolls of the Exchequer, which are Records of great Dignity and Value. They are well kept, and lie in Order in Preſſes, partly

partly Wainſcot and partly Deal; the Outſides of many of the great Rolls are decay'd by Time, and want New Vellom or Parchment Covers; which Covers when put on muſt be Mark'd on the Out-ſide in large durable Writing, to ſhew the King's Reign and Year.

Beſides the ſaid Great Rolls there are in this Office many other Valuable Records which deſerve to be put into better Order.

Moſt of the Preſſes want to be repaired and new lined throughout.

Tables, Desks, and Stools wou'd be uſeful, as well to the Clerks of the Office, as likewiſe to Perſons re-

ſorting thither upon Buſineſs.

The King's Remembrancer's Office.

THE Principal Records of this Office are the *Memoranda*, containing the Enrollments of all the Buſineſs of Weight that is done in this Office: Theſe *Memoranda* lie in Subſtantial Wainſcot Preſſes in the beſt Record-Room belonging to this Office, which Preſſes may be repair'd with little Charge.

This Treaſury is much overſtock'd with Files of Bills, Anſwers, and Proceedings on the

the Equity-Side of the Exchequer; Thoſe Files have lain in Diſorder for many Years before the Time of the preſent Deputy; but if theſe numerous Files be removed into one or other of the Rooms, of which mention is made here-under in this Report, a great deal of Room will be gain'd in the Principal Record-Room.

Here are alſo many other Records that have lain indigeſted for many Years.

Many Bundles of the ſaid *Memoranda* do want Covers and Bands, and many Files of the ſaid Equity Proceedings want new Wrappers and Strings, &c.

Some New Preſſes are wanted in the Chief Record-Room, and ſome Old Preſſes there, which joyn to the Brick Wall, require to be well lin'd at the Back.

Desks, Stools, &c. wou'd be uſeful.

The Treaſurer's Remembrancer's Office.

THE Principal Records of this Office are the *Memoranda*, which contain Enrollments of all the Buſineſs of Weight that is done in this Office; In this Treaſury are alſo kept the *Originalia* or Originals of the Chancery, which are Eſtreats of the Fine Rolls,

Rolls, Patent Rolls, &c. transmitted hither from the Court of Chancery.

These Records lie in tolerable Order in Wainscot Presses, many of the Bundles being impaired by Time, do want New Parchment Covers and New Banding, and many of the Modern Originals want the like Covers and Banding.

All the said Records when New Cover'd must be Endorsed on the Covers in a proper manner, to shew the King's Reign, the Year, or the Term contain'd therein respectively.

There are also in this Office many Records that have lain undigested in great Chests and otherwise, for many Years

before the Time of the preſent Officer.

The Augmentation Office.

THE moſt uſeful Records of this Office are in tolerable Order, but there are many others which were never yet Digeſted and Methodized.

Several ſmall Neceſſaries are wanting, to wit, Parchment Covers for many of the Records; Canvas to make New Bags inſtead of the Old ones, moſt of which are rotted; New Binding of ſeveral Parchment Books of Enrollments, Wooden Boxes, and other ſmall Things.

Gene-

General Memorandums.

THE Roof and Gutters of the Houſe where the Records lie, are with great Difficulty kept defenſible againſt Weather.

In the Offices of the Pipe, and the Two Remembrancers, New Records are to be made up for every Year ſucceſſively; which makes it neceſſary to reſerve Room in thoſe Treaſuries for future Records. At preſent there ſeems to be no ſpare Room in the ſaid Treaſuries.

In ſome of the ſaid Offices there are important valuable Records, that lie in a ſort Buri-

Buried; and in all of them there are many Records that remain in Confuſion for want of Means to defray the Charges of Digeſting them.

The Digeſting and Methodizing of many Records that are in Diſorder in the ſeveral Treaſuries above mention'd, and the New Covering and Endorſing the Years, *&c.* will be a Work of Time, and of many Mens Hands, and may deſerve to be done under the Care and Superviſal of ſome fit Perſon or Perſons.

In the *Brick Tower* there are Two Rooms or Garrets; One, a large Room, the Floor of it cover'd with Books and looſe Parchments, many of which do relate to the Revenue

venue of the Cuſtoms; the other, a ſmaller Room, with Preſſes in it; which Preſſes are filled with Port Books relating alſo to the Cuſtoms, and the reſt of the Room with Bags of Duplicates of Taxes. The King's Remembrancer Claims theſe two Rooms.

Near *Hell Yard* there are Two Ground Rooms; the One is a large Square Room, having many Parchments and Books lying in Duſt on the Floor, and otherwiſe; the other is a much ſmaller Room, wherein Parchments and Tallies have lain in Diſorder for many Years paſt. No Officer (that I can find) Claims theſe two Rooms, or either of them. They are

ſeldom

ſeldom open'd; never for the purpoſe of Searching.

May it pleaſe Your Lord-ſhips,

All Things contain'd in this moſt Dutiful Report are humbly Submitted to Your Lord-ſhips Great Wiſdoms.

Tho. Madox.

The 14th Day of *Feb.* 1718.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inſpecting Records.

IN Obedience to your Lordſhips Order of the Seventh of this Inſtant *February*, I humbly crave Leave to repreſent to your Lordſhips,

That the Records in the Pipe-Office are of Two ſorts, the Great Roll of the Exchequer, and the Foreign Accompts. The former contains

tains an Accompt of the Ancient Revenue of the Crown, writ out in Proceſs every Year to the ſeveral Sheriffs of *England*, who were the General Receivers and Collectors thereof, and by them Levied and Anſwered to the Crown upon their Annual Accompts before the Clerk of the Pipe; which Method is ſtill preſerved and continued to this Day, for ſo much of the ſaid Revenue as yet remains, and hath not been Alienated from the Crown: For all which the reſpective Sheriffs do now Accompt, and take their *Quietus* out of this Office every Year.

The

The Foreign Accompts are that part of the Revenue which is Granted by Act of Parliament for Aids, Subsidies, Polls, &c. and of late Years upon Window-Lights; as also for Customs, Excise, Salt, and all other Parliamentary Impositions and Taxes whatsoever. The Accompts for the Land-Tax and Window-Lights (commonly called the Tax upon Houses) are made up by the Auditors of the Revenue, and all the rest by the Auditors of the Imprests. The former Accompts are Declared before One of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, and the latter by the Treasury: And all these Accomptants do likewise Annually receive their

Quietus

Quietus out of the Pipe. So that the whole Revenue of the Crown (except the Land-Revenue) passing through this Office, and the Records thereof being as Valuable as they are Numerous, It is humbly hoped your Lordships will think them worthy of your Care and Consideration.

And I also beg Leave humbly to Represent to your Lordships, That the State and Condition of the Pipe-Office in His Majesties Court of Exchequer at *Westminster*, having upon several Occasions been of late View'd and Examin'd, and more particularly at this time, by virtue of your Lordships Order; It appears that the Rain has sunk through the

the Tiling and Cieling thereof, and Damaged ſeveral of the Records; ſo that it is humbly hoped that Care may be taken in the firſt place to Secure the Covering, Roof, and Cieling of the Houſe from the Injury of Rain and Weather; without which the Reparations that are neceſſary for the better keeping and preſerving the Records, will be rendred in great Meaſure ineffectual. The Office to be Plaiſtered and White-waſhed.

All the Preſſes, which contain the Great Rolls made up from the Time of King *Stephen* to the Reign of King *James* the Second, being very Old, and taking in Duſt continually, by reaſon of the Decay

of the Materials and Shelves, thoſe Records are very much Injured, many of their Covers or Outſides being worn out, and the Marking or Texting thereof not to be read: For theſe Reaſons it is humbly Propoſed, That all the Preſſes for the Great Rolls be made New of hard and ſeaſon'd Wainſcot, Cloſe and Firm, with good Locks, Rings, and Hinges; all the Shelves whereof to be ſtrong and broad, and ſufficiently ſupported, and able to bear the great Weight that muſt be laid upon them; and the Rolls (which want it) to be New Covered, Marked, and Texted. By which means thoſe Valuable Records will not only be made

more eaſie to be found for the Service of the Publick, but the Records themſelves be preſerved to future Ages.

And becauſe the Rolls and Records of this Office muſt neceſſarily Increaſe every Year, it will likewiſe be neceſſary that more New Preſſes be made, not only for the Great Rolls, but alſo for the vaſt Number of Accompts which now are, and for the future muſt be repoſited there, which at preſent are laid up in great Cheſts and Trunks. Theſe New Preſſes, deſign'd chiefly for Accompts of ſeveral Natures, may be built under the Windows of both the Rooms, and made of the Stuff of the Old Preſſes.

Strong Steps or Ladders to take down and put up the Records, with Two or Three Joynt-ſtools.

A convenient Cover'd Table in each Room, with a Desk and Seat at each end of the Tables.

All which is humbly Submitted to Your Lordſhips.

Fra. Neal,
Dep' Cleric' Pipe.

Pipe-Office,
Feb. 11. 1718.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees, to whom it was Referr'd to Review the Records of the Court of Chancery, &c.

IN Obedience to Your Lordships Order, I do humbly Certifie, That the Records in the Office of the King's Re-

membrancer in the Exchequer conſiſt of,

Bills, Anſwers, and Proceedings thereon, in Cauſes in Equity.

Writs of *Scire Facias*, and Proceedings thereupon, for Recovery of the Debts of the Crown.

Extents, and Inquiſitions thereupon, and Commiſſions of Inquiry, and Inquiſitions thereupon; whereby the Eſtates of Debtors and Accomptants to the Crown, and Eſtates Forfeited to, or belonging to the Crown, are Seized into the King's Hands.

Informations upon Seizures made in the ſeveral Ports of *England*, of Goods Forfeited for

for Non-payment of Cuſtom or Unlawful Importation.

Informations Perſonal for Forfeitures ariſing to the Crown by Offences Committed againſt Penal Laws.

Records of Outlawries certified into the Exchequer, whereby Seizures are made of Lands and Goods into the King's Hands, and the Proceedings depending thereupon.

Commiſſions and Inquiſitions Retornable in, or Certified into the Exchequer upon Attainders, and Forfeitures for Treaſons or Felonies.

Proceſs againſt Receivers and Collectors of Aſſeſſments and Taxes Granted to the Crown, to bring them in, to paſs their Accompts, and to

pay the Monies by them received, to Seize the Lands and Goods of them that refuſe or neglect ſo to do.

Port Books Yearly ſent to the Cuſtomers and Patent Officers of the ſeveral Ports of *England* and *Wales*, for the Entry of all Goods and Merchandizes Imported and Exported.

There are *Memoranda*, which conſiſt of all Matters Inrolled in the ſaid Office.

And in further Obedience to Your Lordſhips Order, I have Inſpected the Records in the Office aforeſaid, and do find ſome of the *Memoranda* want Covers and Whipcord to tie them cloſe, to preſerve them from Duſt.

And

And I do find, That ſome Records relating to Equity Proceedings, *viz.* Bills, Anſwers, and Depoſitions, are much out of Order by the Decay of the Wrappers that Cover the ſame, and were ſo long before I came into the Office; and by what I can learn have been ſo for a great many Years. And it will require a great many Vellom Skins and Cords to new Cover and better Preſerve the ſame. And likewiſe ſeveral Books of Orders want new Binding.

And I do find, That the Walls of ſome of the Record Rooms want to be lined with Boards, or that New Preſſes with Doors thereto ſhou'd be made,

made, the better to preſerve the Records from Dampneſs and Duſt.

All which is humbly Submitted to Your Lordſhips Great Wiſdom.

John Harding, *D. R. R.*

Feb. 17.
1718.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inſpecting Records in the Court of Chancery, &c.

IN Obedience to Your Lordſhips Order of the Seventh Inſtant, whereby I am requir'd to lay before Your Lordſhips an Account in Writing in what State the Records in this Office are, and what

what may be neceſſary to put the ſame into a more proper Condition.

I do in all humble manner Certifie Your Lordſhips, That of the Records in this Office, thoſe of the greateſt Dignity and Concernment are the *Memoranda* and the *Originalia*.

The *Memoranda* contain great Variety of Pleadings relating to the Tenures and Eſtates of the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, with Judgments given by the Court of Exchequer thereupon.

Pleadings and Judgments upon Claims of Franchiſes and Privileges within Manors, Towns, and Liberties.

Many

Many Acts of the Court of Exchequer concerning the Accompts of Sheriffs, Escheators, &c.

Variety of Matters concerning the Charge and Discharge of the King's Debtors and Accomptants.

The Entries of Accompts of Greater and Leſſer Accomptants.

Many Acts and Orders of Court concerning the Land Revenue, and Caſual Revenue of the Crown, as Fee-Farms, Fines, Poſt-Fines, Iſſues, Amerciaments, Recognizances, &c. of all which *Memoranda* there is a Series from the Beginning of the Reign of King *Henry* the Third to the preſent Reign.

The

The *Originalia* are the Eſtreats from the Chancery of all Patent Rolls and Grants from the Crown; and are tranſmitted into this Office to be put in Charge *pro Commodo Regis*; and Commence about the Beginning of the ſame King's Reign, and are continued in a Series ever ſince.

All which Records, and the Repertories relating thereto, do for the moſt part lie in good Method and Order, and are kept in commodious and durable Wainſcot Cheſts and Preſſes, ſufficient for the due Preſervation of the ſame. And I do not find that there is immediately wanting any thing materially neceſſary to put

put theſe Records into a more proper Condition; Except ſuch a quantity of Vellom, or ſtrong Parchment, and Cording, as ſhall be ſufficient for New Covering and Rebinding ſuch whoſe Covers and Bindings are worn out, or greatly decay'd by Time; of which there being a conſiderable Number, the ſame will require the Aſſiſtance of a ſtrong Hand or two to perform that Work, and a competent Clerk to Endorſe the Covers in proper manner, to denote the Reigns and Years; which may probably prove a Work of ſome Labour and Time, and will occaſion ſome few Tables, Desks, Stools, and other odd Things

(the Expence whereof will be inconſiderable) to be provided for that and future Service.

The Conſideration of all which is humbly Submitted to Your Lordſhips great Wiſdoms.

W. Plaxton,
Dep' Rem' Thes'

Treaſurer's Remembrancer's Office,
Feb. 17. 1718.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inſpecting of Records,

The Humble Report of Thomas Jett, *One of the Auditors of the Land-Revenue.*

May it pleaſe Your Lordſhips,

IN Obedience to Your Lordſhips Commands, ſignified to me by Precept of the Seventh Inſtant, I have Inſpected the ſeveral Records in my Office,

which conſiſt of the ſeveral Kinds following, *viz.*

Miniſters Accompts made up in Parchment Rolls, from the Beginning of King *Henry* the Eighth, and continued down to the latter End of King *Charles* the Firſt, wherein are contain'd the Rents of the ſeveral Honours, Caſtles, Lordſhips, Manors, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, which came to the Crown by Diſſolution of the ſeveral Monaſteries, Abbies, Priories, *&c.* and likewiſe by Attainder and other Forfeitures; as alſo the Ancient Revenues of the Crown of *England.*

Accompts of the Receivers General of the Rents, Iſſues, and

and Profits, ariſing out of the ſaid Honours, Caſtles, Lordſhips, Manors, &c. for the ſame Time, likewiſe made up in Parchment Rolls, and Indorſed on the Back, in large Characters, the reſpective King's Reign and Year.

There are alſo ſeveral Books beginning in the Reign of the ſaid King *Henry* the Eighth, and continued down to this Time, wherein are contain'd the Inrollments of the ſeveral Grants in Fee, and in Tail, which have been made of the ſaid Manors and Lands, ſince the Reign of the ſaid King, as alſo of the ſeveral Leaſes.

There are likewiſe ſome few Books of Particulars of

Eſtates and Rents, which have, from time to time, been Granted from the Crown, as alſo View Books of the Miniſters, and Receivers General Accompts, and ſome Extracts of Court-Rolls of Manors, while they remain'd in the Crown.

Some of theſe Records and Books are kept in Wainſcot Preſſes, lined behind, ſtanding in the Court of Exchequer, and in Tables in the ſame Court, which were Originally built and fixed there for the Uſe of the Auditors of the Land Revenue, with Locks to the ſame.

Others are kept in Dry Preſſes well lined, and in Cheſts in a large Square Room over the Court of Exchequer, which

which leads into the Pipe-Office.

Others are kept in two long Rooms over the Top of the Exchequer-Court, fronting the *Palace Yard*, in dry Wainſcot Preſſes, well lined next the Walls, thro' which Rooms are two Drains to Carry away the Water off the Top of the Exchequer-Court; but being well Leaded, the ſame are Dry, and the Plaiſtering and Tiling in good Condition.

The Remaining part of the ſaid Records and Books, from the ſaid King *Charles* the Firſt's Time, are in the Office in the *New Palace Yard*, in good Wainſcot Preſſes well lined.

The greateſt part of the Revenue being alienated from

the Crown there is not much reſort had to theſe Records, but they may be readily turned to upon any Occaſion.

Time hath worn out the Indorſement of ſome few Parchment Rolls, as likewiſe the Binding of ſeveral of the Books of Inrollment and ſome of the Views; which may be repaired and made good at no great Expence.

All which is moſt humbly ſubmitted to Your Lordſhips great Wiſdom.

Tho. Jett, *Aud.*

Feb. 18. 1718.

To

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Inſpecting Records.

IN Obedience to Your Lordſhips Order of the Seventeenth Inſtant, whereby we the Deputy Chamberlains of the ſaid Court of Receipt are requir'd to lay before Your

Lordſhips an Account in Writing of the Nature of the Records in the *Chapter-Houſe* at *Weſtminſter*, in what State or Condition they are in, and whether there is any thing, or what wanting to put the ſaid Records into more proper Condition, and alſo whether any, and what Room is there for the further receiving of Records.

We do in the humbleſt manner Certifie Your Lorſhips, That our Predeceſſors *John Lowe*, and *Peter Le Neve*, Eſqs. ſome Years paſt, drew up an Account in Writing under their ſeveral Hands, of the Records depoſited in the ſaid *Chapter-Houſe*; which Account upon

upon our Admittances into our Offices we found in the Treaſury adjoyning to the ſaid Court of Receipt, (commonly called the Talley-Court) And we have Reaſon to believe that the Records hereafter mentioned, as put down in their Writing, are ſtill remaining there, we having been Obliged upon ſeveral Searches for the Uſe of the Publick, to Examine many Records there depoſited, which we have found by the Directions of the ſaid Writing after long Searching.

The

The Records in the Chapter-Houſe *are as follow,* viz.

Foreign Leagues and Treaties, with many Papers of Publick Matters.

There are very great Quantities of Common Writs, of many Reigns, confuſedly heaped up together.

A great Quantity of the Bills, Anſwers, Replications, *&c.* of the Diſſolv'd Court of *Star-Chamber.*

The Rolls of Records of Aſſize of King *Richard* the Firſt's Time, King *John*, and King *Henry* the Third, and thence down to King *Henry* the

the Fifth, of the King's Bench, and to King *Henry* the Seventh, of the Common-Pleas, with the Rolls of Aſſizes in divers Counties of many Reigns.

Several Fines of Lands, *Poſtea*'s, Concords, Writs of Covenant, *Jurata*'s, *&c.* that have been Tranſmitted from the Common-Pleas. The Fines of each County are from the Reign of *Hen.* VIII. to the Year 1660.

That the Foreign Leagues, *&c.* have lain promiſcuouſly ſome Years in Cheſts, but it wou'd be more convenient if they were digeſted, and put into Wainſcot Preſſes.

That among the great Quantities of Writs there are many Special Retorns which have been,

been, and others may be Proofs of Titles to Lands, and likewiſe prove the ſeveral Boundaries of Lands, as in Writs of Partition, Dower, *&c.* and when digeſted ought to be bundled up under Covers of Vellom or ſtrong Parchment.

As to the Bills, Anſwers, *&c.* of the *Star-Chamber*, they have lain many Years in a very great Heap undigeſted, without any Covering from Duſt, or Security from Rats and Mice.

As to the Rolls of Records of King's Bench, and Common-Pleas, there are very many of them have lain upon the Ground for want of Preſſes to put them in; the Dampneſs

neſs of the Ground having been very prejudicial to them.

The great Numbers of Fines, *Poſtea*'s, Concords, Writs of Covenant, *Jurata*'s, *&c.* We humbly Conceive ought to be digeſted under their proper Reigns and Counties, and accordingly carefully bundled up under proper Covers of Vellom or Parchment.

From the Outward Door leading to the *Chapter-Houſe*, and within the ſaid *Chapter-Houſe*, there is a great deal of Room, and it is altogether very Lightſom to receive many more Records; as may be ſeen if Your Lordſhips pleaſe to direct a Survey to be made thereof, and alſo of the

the Repairs of the Top of the ſame.

The Reaſon why theſe Records have not been Abſtracted, and better digeſted, is for want of ſuitable Time, and due Encouragement; We beg Leave therefore to lay the Principal Obſtructions before Your Lordſhips.

The Deputy Chamberlains are the Proper Officers for Sorting and Abſtracting the ſaid Records; but are ſo Limited and Streightned in point of Time, that 'tis impoſſible at preſent any Progreſs ſhou'd be made in ſo neceſſary and beneficial a Work; their Hours of Attendance in the Talley-Court are from Nine in the Morning till One; moſt of which

which Time they are generally (being only Two Perſons) employ'd in Striking and Examining Tallies, and at other Hours entirely debarr'd from doing any thing with the Records by a Key kept by the Auditor of the Exchequer's Clerk, who has only the ſame Hours of Attendance with the ſaid Deputy Chamberlains: We therefore humbly recommend this to Your Lordſhips Conſideration, That there being large Quantities of Records to be ſorted and digeſted, this will be a very Laborious Work, not to be carried on without an Allowance of Salaries for our ſelves and proper Clerks, with free Acceſs for us to diſpatch the ſame.

ſame. All which we humbly ſubmit to Your Lordſhips great Wiſdoms, and are Your Lordſhips

Moſt Dutiful and

Obedient Servants,

Dudley Downes,
John Lawton.

Court of Receipt in the Exchequer, 20th of *March*, 1718.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Committees for Records,

The Humble Report of Richard Topham, *Esq; Keeper of His Majesties Records in the* Tower *of* London.

IN Obedience to Your Lordships Command, I do Certifie, That in *Wakefield Tower* there are the Records following, *viz.*

The Statute Rolls, beginning with the Statute of *Glouceſter*, *Anno* 6. *Edw.* 1. and ending with the 8th of *Edw.* 4.

Parliament Rolls, beginning *Anno* 5. *Edw.* 2. and ending with the Reign of *Edw.* 4.

Patent Rolls, beginning *Anno* 3. *Johannis*, and ending with the Reign of *Edw.* 4. In theſe are contained Grants of Offices, Lands, Tenements, Temporalties, *&c.* paſſing under the Great Seal.

Charter Rolls, from the Firſt of King *John*, to the end of *Edw.* 4. in which are Inrollments of Grants and Confirmations of Liberties and Privileges to Cities and Towns Corporate, and to private Perſons, as Markets, Fairs,

Free

Free Warren, Commune of Paſture, Waifs, Strays, Felons Goods, *&c.*

The Foundations of Abbies and Priories, of Colleges and Schools, together with Lands and Privileges Granted to them.

The Patents of Creation of Noblemen.

Cloſe Rolls, from the Sixth of King *John*, to the end of *Edw.* 4. In which are Writs of various kinds, but more eſpecially on the Back of the Roll are Entred the Writs of Summons to Parliament, both to the Lords and Commons, and of the Biſhops and Inferior Clergy to Convocations; there are alſo Proclamations, and Inrollment of Deeds between Party and Party.

French Rolls, beginning *Anno* 1. *Edw.* 2. and ending with *Edw.* 4 in which are Leagues and Treaties with the Kings of *France*, and other Matters relating to that Kingdom.

Scotch Rolls, Tranſactions with that Kingdom.

Rome, touching the Affairs of that See.

Vaſcon Rolls, relating to *Gaſcoign.*

There are alſo other Rolls and Records of different Natures.

In this Tower are alſo kept the Inquiſitions *poſt Mortem*, from the Firſt Year of King *Henry* 3. to the Third Year of *Richard* 3.

The

The Inquiſitions *ad quod Dammum*, from the Firſt of *Edw.* 2. to the end of *Hen.* 5.

Writs of Summons and Returns to Parliament, from the Reign of *Edw.* 1. to the 17th of *Edw.* 4.

Popes Bulls, and Original Letters from Foreign Princes.

In Cæſar's *Chapel in the* White Tower *are theſe Records*, viz.

Privy Seals of the Reigns of ſeveral Kings.

Bills, Anſwers, and Depoſitions in Chancery, in the Reigns of Queen *Elizabeth*, King *James* the Firſt, and King *Charles* the Firſt.

Writs of *Distringas* and *Supersedeas.*

De Excommunicato capiendo.

Statutes Merchant and Staple.

And other Writs of divers Natures, relating to Proceedings of the King's Courts of Law.

Richard Topham.

March the 3d,
1718-19.

THE

THE Committee having received Information, That ſeveral Tranſcripts of Records, left by the late Mr. *Rymer*, and not printed, were now in the Hands of Mr. *Awnſham Churchill* a Bookſeller, their Lordſhips thereupon ſent for and Examin'd the ſaid Mr. *Churchill*; who acknowledg'd the ſaid Tranſcripts were in his Cuſtody, but he look'd upon them to be only Papers which the ſaid Mr. *Rymer* threw by as not fit to Print; and that his Executrix had procur'd them to be Bound, and they were paid for by the Treaſury, and were to be applied for the Publick Inſpection.

And he further Inform'd the Committee, That the ſaid Tranſcripts were ready to be deliver'd as Direction ſhall be given: And their Lordſhips have ſince given Direction that the ſame be for the preſent put into the Cuſtody of the ſaid Mr. *Incledon* Your Lordſhips Houſekeeper.

The Committee having made Enquiry touching any empty Rooms which might be proper for the Reception of the Records now lying in Confuſion, and in Danger of Ruin in the Room aforemention'd over the Gateway, were Inform'd, there were Two Rooms near the Exchequer, which wou'd contain a great many Records, and little at preſent therein,

therein, excepting a few Old Port Books, and Uſeleſs Papers, and Old cancell'd Tallies; but at the ſame Time were acquainted, That the ſaid Rooms were claim'd by the King's Remembrancer. Whereupon their Lordſhips Examin'd concerning it, and were Inform'd, That the ſaid Rooms were under the Care of the Lord Treaſurer for the Time being; who at firſt coming into his Office, conſtantly in Perſon Viſits the ſame by way of taking Poſſeſſion. Their Lordſhips then repair'd thither, and View'd the ſame, and having Directed an Eſtimate to be prepar'd of the Charge of Fitting up the ſaid Rooms; and the ſame having been made accord-

accordingly, amounts to about Eighty Pounds.

The Committee have alſo View'd the *Chapter-Houſe* afore-mention'd, and having Directed the like Eſtimate to be made of the Charge which Fitting up thereof will occaſion, the ſame amounts to about Two hundred and ninety Pounds.

And upon this Occaſion their Lordſhips obſerving, That the Cuſtody of the ſaid Houſe is in the Two Deputy Chamberlains and the Auditor of the Exchequer's Clerk, and that Three Keys belong thereunto, without which Recourſe can be at no Time had to the Records there; the Inconveniency whereof being ſo very obvious, the Committee only

only mention it for Your Lordſhips Conſideration, That if you ſhall pleaſe to give Directions in relation to that Place, and the Records therein, that the ſaid Inconveniency may be for the future prevented.

The Committee, as they proceeded, made Inquiry, Whether any Manuſcripts, Books, Calendars, or Indexes, belonging to any of the Records of the Exchequer, had been loſt or imbezilled; and were thereupon Inform'd, That ſeveral Manuſcripts, being chiefly Abſtracts or Calendars, had been prepared by Mr. *Le Neve*, and the late Mr. *Lowe*, whilſt they were Deputy Chamberlains; which their Lordſhips, upon a careful

ful Examination, conceiving to have been Compil'd at the Expence and Labour of thoſe Gentlemen reſpectively; and Mr. *Le Neve*, and the Executor of Mr. *Lowe*, being willing to part with the ſaid Manuſcripts, provided they might have a reaſonable Gratuity for their Labour in Compiling the ſame, being of great Uſe for the more eaſy finding and underſtanding the Records to which they relate, the Committee conceive it wou'd be a Publick Service, that a reaſonable Reward may be given for the ſaid Manuſcripts, to the End they may be plac'd and remain in the reſpective Offices to which they belong, for the Uſe above mention'd.

Die

Die Veneris 17 *Aprilis*, 1719.

WHich Report being read by the Clerk, was approv'd of by the Houſe.

ORder'd, *By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, That an Humble Addreſs be Preſented to His Majeſty, laying before His Majeſty the ſaid Report, and humbly deſiring His Majeſty, That he wou'd be Graciouſly Pleaſed to give ſuch Directions upon the ſeveral Matters therein contain'd, as His Majeſty in His great Wiſdom ſhall think proper.*

Order'd, *That the ſaid Addreſs be Preſented to His Majeſty by the Lord Chancellor.*

Die Sabbati 18 *Aprilis*, 1719.

THE Lord Chancellor acquainted the Houſe, That he had, according to their Lordſhips Order, Preſented to His Majeſty the above mention'd Addreſs; and that His Majeſty was Pleaſed to give a moſt Gracious Anſwer thereunto, to this Effect:

THAT He wou'd take the ſaid Report into Conſideration, and give proper Directions thereupon.

Order'd,

ORder'd, *That the ſaid Report, together with the Addreſs of this Houſe to His Majeſty, and His Majeſties moſt Gracious Anſwer thereunto, be forthwith Printed in an* Octavo *Volume.*

Wm Cowper,
Cler' Parliamentor'

FINIS.

B L